MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
RECEIVED
15 NOV 1940
A.

BOROUGH OF NEATH.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR

1939.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

N E A T H.

31st October, 1940.

TO: The MAYOR and CORPORATION
of the BOROUGH of NEATH.

Mr. Mayor, Madam and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit a curtailed Report, in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular 2067 (Wales), of the more important work carried out in the Sanitary Department during the year 1939.

STAFF.

Your Sanitary staff consisted of three Sanitary Inspectors and one Clerk:-

Mr. Evan Thomas, appointed Sanitary Inspector on the 1st January, 1924, and Chief Sanitary Inspector on the 14th November, 1935.
Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

Mr. E. V. John, appointed Sanitary Inspector and Inspector under the Shops Act, 1934, on the 20th May, 1935. He relinguished his duties under the Shops Act, 1934, on the 1st July, 1939.
Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

Mr. R. T. Probert, appointed Sanitary Inspector on the 1st March, 1936.
Certificated Sanitary and Meat Inspector.

Mr. T. G. Hopkins, appointed Clerk and Student Sanitary Inspector in the Department on the 5th April, 1937.

HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

The Law of Public Health and Housing has been materially altered during the year.

Provisions dealing with commodities such as Milk, Horseflesh and Shellfish, and concerning such matters as Knackers' yards, Slaughterhouses and the production, importation, storage and distribution of food are now combined in the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, whereas they were previously embodied in numerous separate Acts.

The Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, amends the

law with respect to the making of contributions out of the Exchequer and by Local Authorities in respect of housing accommodation provided for the working classes, and with respect to arrangements between Local Authorities and other persons for the provision of housing accommodation.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

Number of houses inspected for defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts...	I,39I
Number of visits of inspection in respect of same	3,682
Number of houses found not in all respects to be reasonably fit for human habitation	474
Number of houses, rendered fit after service of Notices, including 97 which were in course of compliance at the end of I939...	479
Number of houses subject to Notices at the end of I939, the time given having not expired	92

DEFECTS FOUND DURING INSPECTION.

	Premises affected.
Drains - Defective, absence of, defectively constructed, defective fittings... ...	I8I
Water Closets - Defective fittings, broken and defective pans, structural defects, and dilapidations of closet building....	203
Water Supply - No supply, defective and insufficient supply, defective fittings.	3I
Paving of Yard Areas - Defective yard paving, defective dish to gullies...	I22
General House Repairs - Dampness, defective roofs, rainwater troughings and downpipes, defective internal plastering, walls, woodwork, light and ventilation, defective firegrates and chimneys, absence of, or defective food stores and coal stores .	2I5
Other Nuisances - Insanitary stables, pig styes and out-buildings, accumulations of manure, presence of rats and mice, smoke nuisance from domestic chimneys, house and trade refuse. ..	94

All the defects were dealt with under Public Healths Acts.

It was not considered necessary to take proceedings in cases of default in complying with any of the requirements of Notices.

During the year 550 complaints, of which 234 were written, were made in respect of various nuisances.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b28864517

NEW HOUSES.

The number of New Houses erected during the year:-

(I) By the Local Authority...	28
(2) By other Local Authorities	0
(3) By other bodies or persons	58
	86

DISINFECTIONS DURING THE YEAR.

After cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever....	74
After deaths and removals (Tuberculosis).....	I3
After deaths from Cancer....	2
After deaths from other cases	I0
	99

DISINFESTATIONS DURING THE YEAR.

Slum houses, during displacement....	53
Overcrowded houses, during de-crowding	3
Council houses, reported infested...	2
Privately owned houses, reported infested.....	24
	82

FACTORIES ACT, I937.

I. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to Health:-

Premises.	Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories, with Mechanical power...	56	3
Factories, without Mechanical power	I23	I
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction, but not including out-workers' premises)...	II	I
	I90	5

2. Defects found:

Particulars.	Defects.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness (S.I)....	0	0
Overcrowding (S.2)...	0	0
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4).	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences... ..(S.7)		
Insufficient..	2	2
Unsuitable or defective	3	3
Not separate for sexes	0	0
Other offences...	0	0
	5	5

No list of outworkers was received during the year.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

An Application was received from every Keeper, and registration was granted for a further period of twelve months, to date from the Ist January, as follows:-

Cont. 4.

Premises.	Keeper.	Accommodation for Lodgers.
4. Commercial Street.	W. J. Daniel.	45.
I6. The Parade.	Mrs. M. Powell.	8.
68. Water Street.	Evan Rosser.	I2.
23. Wind Street.	Edward Flynn.	45.
I. Cattle Street.	Miss Josephine Mochan.	47.
I0. Cattle Street.	Nathaniel Edwards.	I2.
5. Cattle Street.	Mrs. Agnes Bevan.	I8.
		I87.

The Chief Constable issued 3,394 tickets of admission to the Casual Ward at Lletty Nedd during the year.

FOOD and DRUGS ACT and REGULATIONS.

During the year the following samples were purchased and submitted to the Public Analyst for analysis. All the samples were formally taken.

Milk	9I	Pilchards in Tomato Sauce	I
Butter.	I2	Dried Peas.	I
Lard.	9	Cooked Peas.	I
Margarine.	8	Split Peas.	I
Cheese.	4	Granulated Sugar.	I
Sausage.	3	Flaked Tapioca.	I
Vinegar.	6	Sago.	I
Mixed Dried Fruit.	2	Self Raising Flour.	I
Tinned Tomatoes.	I	Rice.	I

TOTAL: I45.

Ratio of Samples to Population:

Milk Samples.	2.9 per I,000 of population.
Other Samples.	1.7 " " " "
All samples.	4.6 " " " "

Five requests were received to take samples, two "in course of delivery" and three as "an appeal to the cow", in accordance with the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, I938.

ADULTERATED SAMPLES.

Series Number.	Article.	Nature of Adulteration.	Observations.
44.	Milk.	I7.4% deficient in fat.	Proceedings against Vendor. Case dismissed.
49.	Milk.	30.0% deficient in fat.	-do- -do-
66.	Milk.	2.4% Extraneous Water.	Vendor warned.
73.	Milk.	2.0% deficient in fat.	-do-
88.	Milk.	I.7% deficient in fat.	-do-
9I.	Milk.	2.4% deficient in fat.	-do-
I00.	Milk.	3.I% Extraneous Water.	-do-

In the case of the samples 44 and 49, the latter

sample was "morning milk" from a producer-retailer, and the former sample was "evening milk" from a retailer, and had been purchased by him from the aforementioned producer, both samples being purchased for analysis on the same morning.

The following is a summary of Samples purchased, the number adulterated and the number of cases in which proceedings were taken against the sellers during the year (I939):-

Nature of Samples.	Number taken.	Number adulterated.	Percentage adulterated.	Cases Proceedings pending.
Milk.	9I.	7.	7.69	2.
Other Foods.	54.	Nil.	-	Nil.

REGISTERED BUTTER FACTORIES.

Date of Registration.	Situation of Factory.	Occupier of premises.
8th Febry,I924.	Quay Road, Neath.	Walter E. Chappell.
26th Janry,I937.	I5A.Orchard Street,Neath.	William Elliott.
27th January,I937.	II.Queen St Back Rd,Neath.	Corner House Dairy & Cafe, Ltd.

ARTIFICIAL CREAM.

There are no premises registered within the Borough for the manufacture of artificial cream, such article being sold only as received in unopened receptacles.

CONDENSED AND DRIED MILK REGULATIONS, I923/I927.

In no case, during routine inspections of stocks, was the absence of, or incorrect declaration of, labelling detected.

MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, I926.

The "Orders" as to marking of certain articles, made under this Act, were generally well observed, but it was necessary on occasions to warn a few offenders, and these warnings invariably had the desired effect.

BUTCHERS SHOPS.

The fifty-seven Butchers' shops in the Borough were regularly visited during each week. A large quantity of unexamined meat was brought into the Borough, and in accordance with practice, its delivery at the shops was immediately notified to the Department. It was found necessary to condemn and destroy I3 Pig's Heads, 2 Shoulders of Pork, I Pig's Liver, 5 Ox Livers, I Side of Mutton

Cont.6.

and I7 lbs Tripe.

MILK "SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS".

The following Licences for the retail of Graded Milks within the Borough were in operation during the year:-

Name.	Address.	Designation.	Licence.
Wm. Thomas & Son.	Gnoll View Dairy, Neath.	Pasteurised.	Establishment.
Briton Ferry & Neath Co-operative Society Ltd.	I23. Neath Rd, Briton Ferry.	"	"
"	"	T.T.Milk.	"
Richards Bros.	Holland Street, Port Talbot.	Pasteurised.	Supplementary.
"	"	T.T.Milk.	"
G.J.Edwards.	26. Winifred Road, Skewen.	Pasteurised.	"
"	"	T.T Milk	"
Meadowland Milk Ltd.	Manselton, Swansea.	Pasteurised.	"

Walter Price, Longford Farm, Neath, a retailer of T.T. Milk in the Borough, is exempted from local licensing.

MILK and DAIRIES.

The number of farms at which milk was produced for sale in the Borough was 20, the same number as for the previous year, with an average of 205 cows in milk. There were two changes in tenancy, viz., at Cefn Saeson Fawr and Gelligaer Fach Farms

The cowsheds and dairies at each of the farms were periodically visited. These visits were principally in connection with methods of production and storage, limewashing and cleanliness, supervision of improvements to buildings and wholesomeness of water supply.

At the commencement of the year III retailers were registered for the sale of milk in the Borough. During the year, eleven were removed from, and two added to, the register, so that at the end of the year I02 were in business.

The dairies and milk-shops were frequently inspected and were usually found in a satisfactory condition.

INSPECTION OF DAIRY CATTLE.

The inspection of all dairy cattle was carried out in a

routine manner by the Veterinary Inspectors attached to the State Veterinary Service. During the year, one cow from a dairy within the Borough, and eight cows from six dairies in the County Division of Glamorgan, were destroyed as suffering from Tuberculosis.

The greater bulk of the milk from these dairies was retailed within your area. It is the practice of the Meat Inspectors to immediately notify the State Veterinary Service of all cases of tuberculous dairy cattle and calves discovered during meat inspection at the Borough Slaughterhouses.

EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI.

Eleven samples of bulk milk, produced at local farms the milk from which is retailed in the Borough, were submitted during the year to the Public Health Laboratory for examination for Tubercle Bacilli:-

Date.	Name and address of Producer.	Cows in Milk.	Tubercle Bacilli. Present or Absent.
23/2/39.	W.Williams, Gillideg Fawr Farm,Neath.	II.	Absent.
"	T.Williams,Torygraig Farm,Bryncoch.	5.	"
"	A.Davies, Bryncaws Farm,Cilfrew.	7.	"
"	M.Jeffreys,Erwsaethau Farm,Bryncoch.	20.	"
"	D.A.Powis, Tyllwyd Farm,Bryncoch.	5.	"
"	E.W.Jarvis, Crythan Farm, Neath.	9.	"
27/7/39.	Glamorgan Farm School, Neath.	5.	"
30/8/39	T.Hunkin, Glannant Farm,Neath.	6.	"
27/10/39.	Mrs.Morgan, Cwrt Sart Farm,Neath.	II.	Present.
"	G. D. Trick, Mile End Row, Neath.	3.	Absent.
"	J.Teague, Cringallt Farm, Neath.	7.	"

The examination of milks for Tubercle Bacilli, instituted in 1935, affords an excellent guide to the purity of locally produced milk, and although the single sample mentioned in the above Table is the first positive result out of the 45 samples examined, it ensures a safeguard to the consumer. In this case all the cows answered the clinical examination satisfactorily but there was one, dry since the bulk sample was taken, under suspicion, and unfortunately I did not have the opportunity of examining the carcase as Beef, the animal having been disposed of

and slaughtered outside your district. The Laboratories of the State Veterinary Service and of the Cardiff & County certified subsequent samples from this dairy as being negative.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

During the year 96 samples of milk were collected and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Cardiff & County Public Health Laboratory, as follows:-

Description.	Number Submitted.	Number Satisfactory.	Number Unsatisfactory.
Ordinary Raw Milks.	63	44	I9
Pasteurised Milks.	28	27	I
Tuberculin Tested.	4	3	I
Sterilised.	I	I	0
	96	75	2I

The percentage of unsatisfactory results is rather high, in the case of the raw or ungraded milks. A copy of the Certificate issued by the Bacteriologist was sent in each case to the person from whom the milk was collected. The producers of the unsatisfactory samples were all interviewed and instructed on the proper methods of production, and in cases of the dairies being situated outside the Borough, I enlisted the assistance of the Sanitary Inspector of those areas, and subsequent samples examined were satisfactory.

An unusual complaint was received of milk having the taste and smell of Tar. The supply was traced to the same producer, and on investigation at the farm it was found that he had tarred the doors and window-frames of his cowshed on the previous evening. The milk was normal the following day, the Tar having dried in the meantime, and as each affected household received a replacement of milk the complainants were satisfied.

WATER SUPPLIES.

On the instruction of the Medical Officer of Health 75 samples of Water were collected and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during the year. On these 7I were from dwellinghouses, hospitals, schools and public buildings on the Town supplies, and 4 from local Springs and Wells at farms and cottages.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The inspection of all carcases at the Borough Slaughterhouses was carried out continuously throughout the year, irrespective of Sundays and Bank Holidays.

It will be observed that there were 2 licenced private slaughterhouses situated in the Borough, both of which were in the added areas. The Cefn Cringallt Private Slaughterhouse, Cimla, was not in use during the year, the occupier having retired from business. The registered premises occupied by the Briton Ferry & Neath Co-operative Society was actively used throughout the year, and the Society has made an application for a renewal of the licence under the provisions of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

All animals at the Public Slaughterhouse are stunned by means of mechanically operated instruments - Calves Sheep and Pigs by the use of Simpson's Electric Stunners, and Cattle with the "Cash Captive Bolt Pistol".

In the private slaughterhouse the "Cash" Pistol is in use for all animals, electric power has been provided and the Co-operative Society has under consideration the installation of an electric stunning apparatus.

There are 13 persons licensed as Slaughtermen in the Borough and their present licences operated to the 31st December, 1939.

I am pleased to report that the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, with regard to the use of mechanically-operated instruments on all food animals and slaughtering by licensed persons only, etc., are strictly obeyed in the Borough.

I have to report that the wholesalers and slaughtermen using the Public Slaughterhouse have expressed their appreciation of the many improvements carried out there during recent years. The standard of cleanliness and the efficient ventilation of the buildings have ensured the keeping qualities of the meat distributed therefrom, a fact which has been greatly commented upon by retail butchers throughout the district. All condemned carcases and offal, waste products and refuse, are quickly disposed of by incineration, the recently erected gas destructor being used for the purpose, and the serious contamination of meat by flies has been practically eliminated.

A Table indicating the number of animals slaughtered at each of the Borough Slaughterhouses, and the total number slaughtered during the five years 1935 - 1939, is given below:-

Slaughterhouse.	Year.				
	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939.
Borough.....	16,608	16,718	15,031	13,398	14,033
Briton Ferry Co-operative Society Ltd.....	329	298	2,671	6,583	7,971
Cefn Cringallt.....	140	187	81	55	0
	17,077	17,203	17,783	20,036	22,004

During routine inspection 8 carcases and 3 Forequarters of Beef, 2 carcases of Veal, 24 carcases of Pork and 2 Forequarters of Mutton, weighing 2 tons 11 cwts 3 qrs 6 lbs, and 2 tons 16 cwts 1 qr 24 lbs of Edible Offal, a total of 5 tons 8 cwts 1 qr 2 lb., were found to be diseased and unfit for the food of man, and were destroyed. All were subject to voluntary surrender by the respective owners.

CARCASES INSPECTED and CONDEMNED.

	Cattle (excluding Cows.)	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total.
Number killed....	1,597	32	907	15,137	4,331	22,004
Number inspected.	1,597	32	907	15,137	4,331	22,004
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.						
Whole carcases condemned.	1	1	1	0	8	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	202	14	1	268	319	
Percentage of Number affected with disease other than Tuberculosis.	12.7	46.7	.22	1.7	7.5	
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.						
Whole carcases condemned.	4	2	1	0	15	
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	70	4	1	0	166	
Percentage of Number inspected affected with Tuberculosis.	4.6	18.7	.22	0	4.2	

LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY ACT, 1937.

The activities of the Livestock Commission in relation to the Borough, and the Swansea Corporation proposal to operate an Experimental Central Slaughterhouse, were not proceeded with during the year.

Meat Regulations 1924.

I am pleased to report that the Regulations were generally observed and in no case was it considered necessary to take proceedings for non-compliance with the same.

OTHER PREMISES WHERE FOOD IS SOLD STORED OR PREPARED FOR SALE.

(1) Bakehouses.

Inspections of all Bakehouses in the Borough were periodically carried out during the year. The number in use was 24, the same number as at the close of the previous year. 7 of the Bakehouses in use are modern buildings, 14 are structurally fair, and 3 are old buildings. It was necessary to call attention to the need of cleansing of equipment and utensils at several of these establishments.

(2) Aerated Water Works.

There are 4 such Works established in the Borough, all being Factories with mechanical power. 1 of the premises is of modern type and 3 are structurally fair buildings; all are on the Public Water supply.

(3) Ice-cream Shops.

7 samples of Ice-cream were collected from different vendors in various parts of the Borough, and were submitted for Bacteriological examination. Of these samples 3 were certified as being satisfactory, 1 as moderately satisfactory and 3 as unsatisfactory. It is significant that in the cases of unsatisfactory Ice-creams, milk produced in outside areas had been used in their manufacture. The sampling of the milk of these producers was undertaken forthwith.

Particulars of the milk supply and of the ingredients used were obtained and submitted to the Bacteriologist in each case.

Sample Number.	Total Organisms.	Bacillus Coli Content.	Bacteriologist's Remarks.
I.	92,000	plus I/I0th c.c.	Satisfactory.
2.	920,000	plus I/I0th c.c.	Unsatisfactory.
3.	3I,000	plus I c.c.	Satisfactory.
4.	I05,000	plus I.c.c.	Satisfactory.
5.	3,800,000	plus I/I0th c.c.	Unsatisfactory.
6.	I27,000	plus I/I,000th c.c.	Unsatisfactory.
7.	296,000	plus I/I00 c.c.	Moderately Satisfactory.

(4) Fish Frying Businesses.

These were subjected to continuous inspection. The number of premises doing business were 29, an increase of one over the previous year, but a reduction of 7 as compared with I937. One premises, now closed, was considered unsuitable for the purpose of food preparation.

(5) Fish Shops and Hawkers.

These shops were visited regularly and it was necessary to condemn and destroy 35 Rabbits, I4 lbs of Smoked Haddock Fillets and I6 pairs of Kippers. A large business was done by "Street Hawkers" in the sale of fish, fruit vegetables and rabbits, and they were kept under strict supervision so as to ensure the sale of wholesome commodities and the control of the disposal of waste products.

(6) General Provision Shops and Stores.

Few changes were noticed in the number of shops and stores used for the sale of groceries and general provisions, and the conduct of the businesses was generally satisfactory. It was necessary to condemn and destroy 28 Turkeys, I0 Chickens, 2 legs of Roast Pork and 24 barrels of Apples, owing to unsoundness, these not being actually exposed for sale, when inspected.

(7) Hotels, Restaurants and Tea Rooms.

All these premises were regularly visited and attention was specially given to kitchens refrigerators and the storage of food generally. The sanitary accommodation and washing facilities for the use of the staffs were found in good order.

G E N E R A L.

(I) Shops Acts.

The Sanitary Inspectors ceased as Shops Inspectors under the Local Authority for the purposes of the Shops Acts on the Ist July,

1939, the duties being performed from that date by the Weights & Measures Department.

I found that the arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers were satisfactory. Several Notices were complied with in respect of unsuitable or insufficient sanitary accommodation, the provisions of Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934 being rigidly enforced in every respect.

(2) Barbers' and Hairdressers' Shops.

The inspection of these premises, introduced by the Department in 1937, was continued throughout 1939. 23 shops were periodically visited and the trade generally is to be complimented upon the hygienic standard attained.

(3) Offensive trades.

Consent to the establishment of Offensive Trades was given in the following instances:-

Date.	Trade.	Address.	Owner.	Limited period.
1/6/39	Rag & Bone Dealer.	The Latt, James St, Neath.	H.L.Prowse.	12 months.
1/6/39	" "	4.Bankside,Canal Side,Neath.	D.J.Price.	"
1/6/39	" "	Wernpistyll Rd,Briton Ferry.	Elias Evans.	"
1/6/39	Gut Scraper.	Public Abattoir,Eastland Rd, Neath.	W.J.Gabriel.	"

The Certificate of consent granted to Messrs William Duffett & William Brown, (trading jointly as Rag & Bone Dealers at Canal Side, The Green, Neath,) expired on the 31st May, 1939, and no application for its renewal was received.

(4) Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc..

The district is singularly free of movable structures of this nature. A large number of living vans are stationed temporarily in the Fair Field during the Easter and Annual Fairs, and even these were not much in evidence during 1939. The nuisance occasioned by travelling hawkers and gypsies, who pitch camp did not cause much trouble, and I wish to appreciate the assistance given by the Police in its control.

(5) Sanitary Accommodation of Cinemas, etc.

In accordance with Circular 120 of the Ministry of Health and the Order of the Home Office, I have made periodical inspections of the Cinemas and Halls in the Borough.

There are five Cinemas, namely Empire, Gnoll Hall, Windsor, Palace Kinema and Lodge Kinema, the first three being situated in Neath and the remaining two in Briton Ferry, with seating accommodation for 5,362 persons.

The Empire, Windsor and Lodge Cinemas were satisfactory in all respects, and were always satisfactorily maintained.

The Gnoll Hall was not kept in a satisfactory manner. The owners carried out renovation of seating, renewal of floor coverings and redecorating, as instructed by the Council, and further work is to be put in hand in I940.

The Palace Kinema, as previously reported upon, is entirely unsatisfactory and unsuitable as a Cinema. It is the intention of the owners to close the premises and to transfer the Licence to the Public Hall, which would be altered in accordance with a plan approved by the Council.

Routine inspections of all Public Halls and Public Billiard Halls were made and all are provided with suitable sanitary accommodation.

(6) Sanitary Accommodation of Schools.

At the request of the Schools Medical Officer of the Borough the sanitary conveniences in connection with the Elementary Schools were frequently inspected.

There are three Private Schools - two Commercial and one preparatory - situated in the Borough. They are large houses having been converted for the purpose and they have also been visited and inspected on several occasions.

(7) Licensed Premises.

These premises were inspected at frequent intervals, sanitary defects were noted and duly remedied by the service of Notices. An inspection of all registered Clubs was also made, primarily in connection with sanitary accommodation provided, and these were found to be maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(8) Rats & Mice Destruction Act, I9I9.

A number of complaints were received from various parts of the Borough of rat infestation in houses, shops, warehouses, vacant buildings and on open spaces. The Police Department also submitted several complaints of the presence of rats in food shops

in the centre of the town.

The Town Clerk received the usual Circular from the Ministry of Agriculture directing attention of the Local Authority to "Rat Week". A letter was also received from the Glamorgan Agricultural Committee in relation to the destruction of rats so as to preserve foodstuffs.

In consequence of these communications, an inspection of the whole of the Borough was carried out by the Sanitary Staff, and efforts were concentrated on shopping areas and on the open spaces most likely to be rat-infested. 56 premises were found to be rat-infested; 70 layings of bait were made, 2,3I0 baits being used. The total number of baits used during the year, mostly on Corporation property, was 5,200, at a cost of £6. 0. 0d.

I circularised all farmers and stock-breeders throughout the Borough as to the urgent necessity of instituting a "Rat Drive" so as to rid their land and premises, and thus help to remove the menace, and in addition, to preserve valuable foodstuffs, especially in view of the National Emergency.

(9) Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Acts, I920/I938.

78 applications were received for Certificates during the year in respect of houses subject to Clearance and Demolition Orders, and in each case it was granted.

HOUSING.

(I) Houses Unfit for Human Habitation.

No action was taken under Section 9 of the Housing Act, I936. Proceedings were taken under Section II of the Housing Act, I936 in respect of four "Unfit Houses".

The Council made "Demolition Orders" in the following:-

Rock Cottage, Foundry Road, Neath.
20 & 22.Neath Road, Briton Ferry.

An"Undertaking" was accepted in respect of:-

Rock Cottage, Penrhiwtyn,Neath.

The "Undertakings" accepted by the Council in respect of the following dwellings have been duly complied with:

2 & 3. Brickyard Cottages,
69. Water Street.
42. Neath Road.
58A. Neath Road.
8. Waters Court.
I3. Russell Street.
I & 2. Kirkhouse Court.
34A. Ritson Street.
55A. Ritson Street.
27. Briton Ferry Road.
Westernmoor Farm Cottage.
Rock Cottage, Penrhiwtyn.

The Accepted" Undertakings" in respect of the following dwellings are, as yet, not complied with:-

I. 2. 3. & 4. Jonah Court.
I4I & I43. Neath Road.
3 & 4. Lower Cwm-y-Dwr.
I9A. Lowther Street.
35A. Lowther Street.
IIA. Hunter Street.
II9A. London Road.

The Lodge, Garthmor, Old Road, was demolished for purposes of raod widening, and the Old Jail, James Street, (the property of the Council) was also demolished during the year.

(2) Slum Clearance:

I beg to report upon the progress made under your Slum Clearance Programmes:

In response to a request contained in the Ministry of Health's Circular I33, dated the 6th April, I933, the Council adopted a provisional programme of Slum Clearance spread over a period of five years, as follows:-

Areas.	Houses.	Families.	Persons.
I9.	24I.	277.	I,I67

It is here to be noted that the Council has from time to time extended this provisional programme by the inclusion of other areas, and further extensions are to be anticipated. To these areas must also be added the unfit individual houses, parts of houses and underground or cellar dwellings.

The following is a Table of Comparison between the original provisional programme and the positiin in relation to Slum Clearance at the end of I939:-

	Areas.	Houses Involved.	Families.	Persons.
Provisional Programme...	I9	24I	277	I,I67
Slum Clearance Programmes.....	37	423	459	I,9I7

SLUM CLEARANCE SCHEME, I934. or
First Year's Programme.

Areas.	Houses affected.	Families.	Houses provided.	Persons displaced.	Houses demolished.
9	58	57	57	2I5	5I

Houses Undertakings accepted.
7.

The owner of the seven houses here referred to, made an application for their conversion into stores to be used in connection with an adjoining Engineering Works, and offered to give an Undertaking not to again use them as dwellings. The Ministry of Health modified the Clearance Order accordingly and directed that such an Undertaking be accepted. The houses have been vacant since the 27th May, I935, and although they are boarded up, they remain an eyesore and are seriously detrimental to the amenities of the district. I have made repeated application to the new owners to convert the buildings into stores, as requested by them, but in the absence of an agreed time limit it is difficult of enforcement.

No provision was made for six families of one person. The 57 families displaced were provided for on the three Sites, as follows:-

Site.	Families.	Two Bedroom.	Three Bedroom.	Four Bedroom.	Total.
Pencaerau.....	I7	II	6	Nil.	I7.
Brynhyfryd.....	I8	I2	4	2	I8.
Llantwit.....	22	I2	6	4	22.
	57	35	I6	6	57.

SLUM CLEARANCE SCHEME, I935, or
Second Year's Programme.

Areas.	Houses affected	Families.	Persons.	Houses provided.	Flats provided.
5.	82	82	350	78	4

Provision was made for four families of one person. The 82 families displaced were provided for on one site, as follows:-

Site.	Families.	Two Bedroom.	Three Bedroom.	Four Bedroom.	Flats.	Total.
Pencaerau...	82	4I	27	I0	4	82.

Cont. I8.

SLUM CLEARANCE SCHEME, I936, or Third Year's Programme.

Areas.	Houses affected.	Families.	Persons	New houses required.
5.	56.	65.	304	65

SUMMARY OF I936 PROGRAMME.

	Houses.	Families.	Persons.	Families of one Person.	New houses required.
Clearance Areas.	56.	65.	304.	I.	65.
Cellar Dwellings.	9.	9.	34.	I.	9.
Individual Unfit Houses.....	29.	32.	I36.	0.	32.
	94.	I06.	474.	2.	I06.

Provision was made for the two families of one person. The requirement of two flats was increased to four flats to complete the block, with a corresponding decrease in the number of houses. The I06 families were provided for on the three sites, as follows:-

Site.	Two Bedroom.	Three Bedroom.	Four Bedroom.	Flats.	Total.
Brynhyfryd....	I8	I7	6	0	4I.
Pencaerau.....	4	0	0	4	8.
Llantwit.....	34	I5	8	0	57.
	56	32	I4	4	I06.

There were originally 42 Underground or cellar dwellings, 35 of which were situated in Penydre, and 7 in The Green. I am pleased to report that none of these to-day constitute separate dwellings, those in The Green having been demolished as part of a Clearance Aream and of those in Penydre, 27 are added as extra accommodation, other than for sleeping, to the houses above, and the remaining 8 are boarded up, the owners having not yet availed themselves of such an arrangement as indicated.

SLUM CLEARANCE SCHEME, I937. or Fourth Year's Programme.

Areas.	Houses effected.	Families.	Persons.	New houses required.
I2.	IIO.	I23.	495.	I23.

Summary of I937 Programme.

	Houses.	Families.	Persons.	Families of I person.	New houses required.
Clearance Areas.	IIO	I23	495	3	I23.
Individual Unfit Houses.	I7	I9	77	I	I9.
	I27	I42	572	4	I42.

Provision is being made for 4 families of I person.

It was only possible, owing to land difficulties, to submit a building programme for I40 houses, and it may be necessary to include the two left over, in the next building programme.

The I40 families referred to in the I937 Programme are to be provided for in the Gas Works, Brynhyfryd and Westernmoor Sites, as follows:-

Site.	Two Bedroom.	Three Bedroom.	Four Bedroom.	Flats.	Total.
Gas Works.	I4	4	0	0	I8.
Brynhyfryd No. I.	8	-	2	-	I0.
" No. 2.	6	4	-	-	I0.
Westernmoor.	60	24	I4	4	I02.
	88	32	I6	4	I40.

The I8 houses at Regent Street (West), Gas Works site, and the I0 houses at Highfield Road, Brynhyfryd No. I site, were completed and occupied during the year.

It was hoped to have had them completed within the scheduled time, but progress was seriously delayed by continuous bad weather and resulted in the Council receiving a lower rate of subsidy than that applicable to houses ready for occupation on the 3Ist December, I938.

On the 8th September, I939, the Ministry of Health issued Circular No. I866, dealing with postponement of work under the Housing Acts. The position of the various building contracts at the time, in connection with the Fourth Year's Scheme (I937) was as follows:-

28 houses at Regent Street (West), Gas Works Site, completed and occupied.

Cont. 20.

10 houses at Highfield Road, Brynhyfryd No.I Site, completed and occupied.

10 houses at Giants Grave Road, Brynhyfryd No.2. Site, in course of construction, permission later received to complete the houses for occupation.

98 houses and 4 flats at Westernmoor, the building contract, in the National Interest, was suspended.

SLUM CLEARANCE SCHEME, 1938. or Fifth Year's Programme.

Areas.	Houses	Families.	Persons.	New houses required.
6	46	57	250	57

Summary of 1938 Programme.

	Houses.	Families.	Persons.	Families of I person.	New houses required.
Clearance Areas.	46	57	250	6	57
Individual Unfit Houses.	16	15	56	1	15
	62	72	306	7	72

Re-housing requirements of 1938 Programme.

Ward.	Flats.	Two Bedroom.	Three Bedroom.	Four Bedroom.	Total.
North.....	6	32	15	12	65
South.....	-	1	-	-	1
Briton Ferry.	1	4	1	-	6
	7	37	16	12	72

The Council decided, having regard to the two houses which were not included in the 1937 Building Programme, to increase the 1938 Programme to 74 persons.

Cont. 21.

OVERCROWDING.

Particulars of Overcrowding.

Table I. Overcrowding Records.

Ward.	1936. Families.	1936. Persons.	1937. Families.	1937. Persons.	1938. Families.	1938. Persons.	1939. Families.	1939. Persons
North.	186		134	805	111	666	111	667
South.	142		82	486	61	334	59	330
Briton Ferry.	84		56	329	48	282	40	230
Council Houses.	25		17	122	14	104	15	109
	437	2,553	289	1,742	234	1,386	225	1,336

Table II. New cases during the year.

Ward.	Families.	Persons.	Size of Families. 4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
North	8	45	3	-	3	1	1
South	2	10	1	-	1	-	-
Briton Ferry	2	9	1	1	-	-	-
Council Houses	1	5	-	1	-	-	-
	13	69	5	2	4	1	1

Table III. Reasons for New Cases of Overcrowding.

	Families.
Increase in age of children.	1
Increase in size of family.	9
Occupying dwellinghouses since "Appointed Day".	3
	13

Cont. 22.

Table IV. De-crowded Families.

Ward.	1939. Families.	1939. Persons.	Net decrease. Families.	Net decrease. Persons.	Size of Families. 2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9
North.	8	44	-	-	.	.	2	3	I	I	I	.
South.	4	I4	2	4	I	.	3	.	.	.	.	.
Briton Ferry	I0	54	8	45	.	1	1	5	1	1	.	1
Council houses	-	-	-	-	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
	22	II2	I0	49	I	I	6	8	2	2	I	I

Table V. Methods of abating Overcrowding.

	North.	South.	Briton Ferry.	Council Houses.	Total.
I. Given Council Houses.	6	3	6	-	I5
2. Displacement of Sub-tenants	-	I	2	-	3
3. Moved to other houses in the district.	2	-	2	-	4
	8	4	I0	-	22.

Table VI. Position of Overcrowded Houses 3Ist December, I939.

Ward.	Houses Involved.	Persons in houses.	Persons Involved.	Families overcrowded.	Persons involved.
North	99	I64	8I0	III	667
South	59	96	450	59	330
Briton Ferry	37	65	305	40	230
Council Houses.	I5	I5	I09	I5	I09
	2I0	340	I674	225	I336.

HOUSING STATISTICS. 1939.

(I) Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year:-

I(a)	Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1391
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose.	3682
2(a)	Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (I) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	10
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	40.
3.	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	10.
4.	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	594

(2) Remedy of defects during the year without the service of formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	120.

(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9.10 and 16. of the Housing Act, 1936:-

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:-	
	(a) By owners..	Nil.
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners.	Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	474
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices:-	
	(a) By owners.	479
	(b) By Local Authority.	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections II and I3 of the Housing Act, I936:

(I) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. 3

(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Section I2 of the Housing Act, I936.

(I) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit. Nil.

(4) Housing Act, I936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) (I) Number of dwellinghouses ~~decrowded~~ overcrowded at the end of the year. 2I0
(2) Number of families dwelling therein. 225
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein. I,336

(b) Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year. I3

(c) (I) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 22
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases. II2

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. Nil

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

(I) Number of Council Houses found to be
(I) infested..... 2
(2) disinfested..... 2

Number of other houses found to be
(I) infested.....24
(2) disinfested.....24

(2) The procedure employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs, both for Council and privately-owned houses, and the after-care methods adopted, were as reported in previous Annual Reports.

GENERAL.

The Council has availed itself of the extensive powers granted to Local Authorities in improving the housing conditions of the working classes, and although I,500 persons have been displaced to new Council Houses from Slum, insanitary and overcrowded dwellings, there are still in the Borough many insanitary and

overcrowded houses and several slum areas to be dealt with. The Programme of improved housing has been shelved in consequence of present hostilities. For the Borough, it involves the suspension of the contract for the erection of 102 dwellings at Westernmoor (1937 Scheme), the provisional lay-out for 74 dwellings (1938 Scheme) and the preparation of the programme which would have formed the sixth year or 1939 Scheme. The Ministry's decision to suspend the building of houses for Slum Clearance displacement has compelled these families to remain in occupation of houses which were confirmed to be unfit for human habitation in the years 1937 and 1938. I am continually in receipt of complaints of the seriously unhealthy conditions, which are justified, and in some cases not only unhealthy but a positive danger to life and limb, and since the houses are included in confirmed Clearance Areas, a difficulty arises in enforcing repairs and the maintenance of them in a reasonable state of habitation.

Dilapidated Buildings.

There are situated throughout the Borough many old buildings which are dilapidated and in a dangerous condition. These are by reason of their ruinous condition not only dangerous but seriously detrimental to the amenities of the neighbourhood. The Council has taken advantage of the provisions of Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and adopted the following procedure in relation to the same (1) that the attention of the owners of any such buildings should be drawn to the provisions of the Act, (2) that they submit any proposals of repairs, restoration or demolition of the buildings, and (3) that failure to give satisfaction the Council apply for an Order, as provided by the Section. The attention of owners of several such structures in the Borough was drawn to the matter during the year.

Housing of T. B. Patients.

The Medical Officer of Health received during the year several letters of complaint of the unsuitability of the housing accommodation of Tuberculous patients. Of the 36 cases recorded for consideration, 18 were housed in Council houses, 4 died at

their homes and I4 remain to be considered.

Verminous Persons and their Clothing.

A special Report was submitted to the Council on the question of disinfesting personal clothing of persons in infested houses. One case of "disinfestation of a private dwellinghouse" was carried out by the Department at a cost of £2. IO. Cd to the owner.

Common Lodging Houses.

The number of nightly lodgers received into the registered common lodging houses did not exceed five per cent; such persons usually obtain admission tickets into the Casual Ward at Lletty Nedd, whilst the lodging houses have become the "homes" of Old Age Pensioners and Unemployed townspeople. A Report was submitted to the Council on the question of providing a Municipal Lodging house, and the matter was relegated to a Sub-Committee for consideration. It is not now possible to proceed with the project, but the existence of such an Institution, especially during recent incidents, would have been desirable.

Factories Act, I937.

The Factories Act, I937, consolidated the previous Acts and thus brings into one Statute the requirements which have hitherto been scattered in a number of different Acts. The many new provision in the Act will have an important bearing on the health, safety and well-being of the industrial population. An extraordinary inspection was made of all factories, mechanical and non-mechanical, in the Borough, and new Register prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The Inspector of Factories was consulted on the many difficulties met with in practice, especially in view of the extended definition, in the New Act, and advantage of the visit was taken to check and compare registers.

Food Poisoning.

Cases of Food Poisoning in the Rural Area were reported as a result of the consumption of Corned Beef, which had been purchased by the two families affected, at a shop in the Borough.

One of the persons affected, a boy, aged 6 years, died at the West Glamorgan Hospital, and the Coroner certified that the boy had died of Food Poisoning as a result of consuming "Corned Beef". The Coroner expressed his appreciation of the manner in which the Sanitary Inspectors had conducted the inquiries and for attending, at his request, the Inquest to give evidence. All the other cases completely recovered and no other complaint was received at the Health Department, although several sales of portions from the same large tin of Corned Beef had taken place.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The Council submitted an application to the Minister of Health, requesting him to recognise the Neath Borough Council as a Food and Drugs Authority under the new Act. I am pleased to report that the Minister agreed that the duty previously executed by the Borough Council to the welfare of the inhabitants of the area be retained.

An inspection was made of all food premises situated in the Borough, which were subject to registration under the Act. Such premises must comply with a standard of suitability, and those which do not comply with the requirements have been selected to do certain work, and a limited time for its carrying out has been granted to the occupiers. A Report was prepared and submitted to the Council early in the New Year.

I desire to express my thanks to the Members of the Town Council, the Medical Officer of Health, the Staff of the Health Department and officials of the Corporation for their help and assistance throughout the year.

I am, Mr.Mayor,Madam and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.